

361

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT 25X1

TOPIC Czech Troops and Military Installations in Sokolov 25X1

25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 10 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

1. Prior to February 1953, the barracks camp at the southeast exit of the city of Sokolov (N 51/P 58) on the northwest side of the road to Vitkov (N 51/P 58) quartered troops who wore khaki uniforms with black service color. Truck traffic at the installation was heavy. No heavy weapons were observed in the billeting area. The soldiers of a unit of about 200 men who marched into the billets wore black epauletts. No piping was recollected. Officers of this unit wore black patches with club-shaped insignia. In February 1953, a military motor-vehicle repair shop was also observed about 100 meters northwest of the above mentioned barracks installation, off the road fork formed by the roads to Dol. Rychnov (N 51/P 58) and Vitkov. ¹

2. In about mid-January 1953, a detachment of about 50 men was observed at gun drill in the park of the castle, whose entrance was guarded by sentries wearing black service color. The soldiers wore black epauletts. They were trained with three guns of three different models. ¹ one of them, which had a caliber of 40 to 50 mm, as an AT gun. The gun was painted gray-green and seemed to be an old model. It had a split-trail gun carriage, disk wheels with pneumatic tires, a smooth barrel which mounted no muzzle brake, a relatively short cradle and a shield which was inclined to the rear and had slanting lateral edges. ² Another gun of about 70 to 80 mm had a smooth barrel about 3 meters long, which was equipped with a cradle, but was topped by no counterrecoil mechanism. The shield, whose top was about 1.50 meters high, had no slanting lateral edges. ³ This gun a cannon, seemed to be old. The third gun

 a howitzer of about 100 mm. The smooth barrel, which was about 2.5 meters long, topped a strong cradle, which extended in the direction of the muzzle as far as about the middle of the barrel. The barrel was topped by no counterrecoil mechanism. The shield was slightly inclined to the rear and had no slanting lateral edges. ³

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

3. Prior to 29 April 1953, the post headquarters (Posadkove Velitelstvi) was in the former old convent, which was a U-shaped building enclosing the church. This office, whose staff included NCOs and also woman auxiliaries in civilian clothes, was commanded by a major, who wore golden epaulets with two longitudinal striped and red patches with club-shaped insignia. The NCOs who were observed at the site also wore red epaulets, which had yellow stripes.
4. Prior to late April 1953, the "Armadni Dum" soldiers' home, which contained a canteen and reading rooms for the soldiers of the post, was in the former restaurant "Zum Hufeisen". The soldiers' home was north of the old convent on the west side of ul. Komencky, formerly Benesch Strasse. Prior to March 1953, the former restaurant "Beseda" at the intersection of the west side of ul. Fucikova and the south side of ul. Zamecka, which was also referred to as officers' mess by the population, quartered about 20 officers up to the rank of captain, who wore golden epaulets with red longitudinal stripes. The military billets on the northern perimeter of the city, on the east side of the road to Kraslice (N 51/K 30), were less known [redacted] no heavy weapons at the site. ¹
5. The recruiting office (Okresni Vojenske Velitelstvi), at which soldiers with red epaulets were seen, was at the north end of the main square. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the members of the 1931 and 1932 classes were on active military service prior to the date of the resettlement in late April 1953. Registrations for the members of the 1932 class were held in May and October 1952. The men were inducted by November 1952. The names of the members of the 1933 and 1934 classes were already listed in records. The members of the 1933 class were scheduled to be registered in May and October 1953. [redacted]
6. [redacted]
[redacted] a unit of about 150 men, who wore khaki uniforms with dark-green epaulets and dog head brass insignia on their collars. The unit held combat practices in the area northwest of Sokolov. ¹ In the summer and early fall of 1952, a motorized unit with four AT guns, which were towed by six-wheeled trucks, was frequently observed approaching from the center of the city and proceeding on the road to Kraslice. The unit occasionally held practices along both sides of the road in the area of Haselbach (N 51/P 58). The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets. The guns, which had a caliber of about 80 mm, were equipped with smooth barrels without muzzle brakes and had cradles about 1 meter long. The shields of the guns were laterally buckled. [redacted] disk wheels with pneumatic tires and split-trail gun carriages with pipe trails. ⁴ and ¹
7. Prior to the fall of 1952, soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed at the castle which had been occupied by military units at least since early 1951. ¹ In June or July 1952, three Soviet officers were frequently seen in the "Cesky Dom" hotel. Local residents said that the officers were instructors and came from a troop training camp south of the city.
8. In March or April 1952, [redacted] workers who were members of the 1932 class had to go to Sokolov for registration. They were scheduled to be inducted on 1 October 1952. ⁵
9. Prior to September 1952, [redacted]
[redacted] about eight guns of 100 to 150 mm and four other guns of about 70 to 80 mm at this site. [redacted] obstacle course including a board wall, a water-filled trench, crawling obstacles, etc., in the castle park. The soldiers who entered or left the castle wore khaki uniforms and red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] heavy military motor traffic, but no guns at the billeting areas on the east side of the road to Kraslice. A lieutenant who served with a unit quartered in this installation wore golden epaulets with a red background and red collar patches. ¹

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

10. In the spring of 1952, all members of the 1932 class who lived in the district of Sokolov were registered in Sokolov. On three days between 21 and 28 September 1952, recruits of this class were marched behind a band from the main square to the railroad station. [redacted] a member of the 1932 class, expected to receive his notice of induction by 1 October 1952. Numerous soldiers of the 1931 class were not yet discharged by late September 1952. 5

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. The statements substantiate and supplement previous reports. [redacted] Although the units stationed at the Sokolov post are not yet clearly determined it has been ascertained that they include the artillery regiment of the 12th Mtz Rifle Div. The belief that the AT battalion of this division is also stationed at Sokolov is confirmed by the statements of the present report. [redacted] the Kraslice Kaserne quartered a PS unit. [redacted]

2. [redacted] Comment. It is believed [redacted] a 45-mm AT gun of Soviet model M-42.
3. [redacted] Comment. The guns cannot be identified.
4. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] an old German Army 75-mm AT gun, which, however, were mostly equipped with muzzle brakes.

5. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] Elements of the 1932 class seem to have been inducted in the fall of 1952. This office hitherto believed that the majority of the members of these classes would be inducted together with the 1933 class not before the fall of 1953. Also, in view of numerous reports on an extension to 30 months of the term of active service it is believed that the induction system was modified, although definite information is not yet available. [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL,